

15-90 Corridor IC Project

Letter of Intent

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Letter of Intent

Between

Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, Beaverhead County,

Butte-Silver Bow County & Granite County

Purpose

This Letter of Intent is entered into by and between Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, Beaverhead County, Butte-Silver Box County and Granite County to set forth an agreed upon framework within which the proposed terms of an Interoperable Communications Memorandum of Understanding between our respective counties might be drafted. The goal of such a memorandum would be to form the 15-90 Corridor Interoperable Communications Consortium, tentatively to be called the 15-90 Corridor IC Project, to investigate the needs and formulate a plan to meet the interoperable communication needs of the participants of the consortium.

Objectives

The ultimate objective is to develop an interoperable multimode radio communications system based on current federal and state communication standards in which federal, state, and local public safety and emergency management representatives can operate autonomously and transition seamlessly to communicate effectively in an all-hazard emergency mission role. The system will provide advanced digital, secure voice and data communications for public safety and improve homeland security through provision of the means by which military and civil authorities may communicate by radio.

The immediate objective of the resulting agreement is to assess the radio communications needs and capabilities of the members, both collectively and individually, and to develop a comprehensive communications plan aimed at achieving a reliable, effective and fully interoperable communications system within the counties themselves; and also between all local, state and federal entities that might be involved in emergency management and response. Such a plan will include detailed and prioritized schedules of equipment procurement and training necessary to fully implement the overall objective. In addition, the plan should provide for identifying sources of funding, and procuring funds through grant applications because outside funding will be required to implement the plan. The plan should also provide detailed costs for implementing the plan, on-going costs for personnel to manage and operate the system, periodic costs to maintain and upgrade the system, and training costs. It should be undertaken and completed in the near term, preferably before November 1, 2004 in order to facilitate orderly and expeditious resolution of the problems identified.

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A secondary objective is to provide a basis for group procurement of equipment and training to the end of maximizing effectiveness while minimizing the costs thereof. Assistance with writing RFP's may be required for this objective.

Goals and Prioritization

Pursuit of the objectives of this consortium will meet SIEC and ODP requirements, the intent of the Montana Homeland Security Strategic Plan and of the applicable county plans currently under development as well as the parameters of the State Homeland Security Program Grant and the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program Grant relative to the enhancement of terrorism detection, prevention and mitigation (including intelligence) capabilities as well as Interoperable Communications. The resulting plan will form the backbone of efforts to provide for public safety communications in every part of the counties involved, some of which currently is unreachable in terms of tactical communications capability due to topography and sheer distance. It will also provide a coordinated and rational framework within which to upgrade and modernize existing emergency management communications, provide for a phased implementation strategy and be backward compatible.

Interested Entities

In addition to the four counties, the following entities have an interest in participating or otherwise assisting in the success of this endeavor:

Attached letters indicate the interest of the above listed entities. At the time of signature of this document, if other verbal and written documents of support and interest are received, they will be included with an attached updated listing at the time of transmission.

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Estimated Costs

The following is a projected estimate and not a binding contract between the parties.

Phase I: Assessment & Planning \$

Phase II: Implementation \$

Total Estimated cost of the project \$

Signatures

For the LEPC Committee:

For the Local County DES:

Date Signed

Date Signed

For Local Government Officials:

Date Signed